

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

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P 160710Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9384
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS BANGKOK 23344

FOR HA/ORM-IPP

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: REF
SUBJ: PROJECTED DEPARTURE RATES FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES FROM
THAILAND

REF A. BANGKOK 17776 B. STATE 202405 C. KUALA LUMPUR 8798

1. DURING JULY, 1248 REFUGEES DEPARTED FROM THAILAND FOR THE U.S.;
A SHORTFALL OF OVER 150 FROM THE GOAL OF 1400. THE SHORTFALL WAS DUE
TO:

- A. INSUFFICIENT SPACE ON PACIFIC FLIGHTS TO HONOLULU AND THE
WEST COAST DUE TO THE NORTHWEST STRIKE.
- B. LACK OF CONFIRMED EUROPEAN CARRIER SPACE BECAUSE SPECIAL RATES
FOR NORTHWEST-TICKETED PASSENGERS ON EUROPEAN CARRIERS WERE
NOT FIXED UNTIL THE LAST WEEK IN JUNE.
- C. INABILITY TO SCHEDULE REFUGEES FOR JULY 2-4 ARRIVALS IN THE
U.S. BECAUSE OF THE JULY 4 HOLIDAY.

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 23344 150801Z

2. ICEM/BANGKOK HAS BEEN PREPARING AN ESTIMATE OF IPP 77-78 REFUGEES
WHO WILL BE READY FOR MOVEMENT DURING AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER. IN
AUGUST, ICEM PROJECTS THAT 1400-1500 REFUGEES WILL DEPART OUT OF A
POOL OF 1950 POTENTIALLY READY FOR MOVEMENT. APPROXIMATELY 170
ASSURED REFUGEES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MOVE DUE TO INSUFFICIENT TRANS-
PACIFIC AIR SEATS, WHILE 280 REFUGEES WILL BE DELAYED FOR MEDICAL AND
OTHER REASONS. THIS DEPARTURE PROJECTION IS LOWER THAN THE 1600

DEPARTURES ESTIMATED IN REFTEL BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES IN SENDING REFUGEES TO THE WESTERN U.S.A., AND A SHORTAGE OF EASTERN-U.S. BOUND REFUGEES DUE TO THE DISPROPORTIONATE AMOUNT MOVED IN JULY.

3. UNLESS WE ARE ABLE TO MOVE SOME LRP REFUGEES DURING SEPTEMBER, IT NOW APPEARS THAT WE WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO MOVE ABOUT 850-900 IPP REFUGEES DURING THAT MONTH, OUT OF A POOL OF 1230 ASSURED REFUGEES. THE REMAINDER CANNOT MOVE BECAUSE: SOME ASSURANCES RECEIVED DO NOT ALLOW ENOUGH TIME TO BOOK MOVEMENT DURING THE SAME MONTH; WEST COAST DESTINATIONS; AND VARIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE AND MEDICAL HOLDS. LESS THAN 500 IPP REFUGEES WILL REMAIN FOR OCTOBER MOVEMENT, PLUS THOSE WITH ASSURANCES RECEIVED IN THE FIRST HALF OF OCTOBER. AS OF OCTOBER 1 ONLY ABOUT 500 IPP 77/78 REFUGEES SHOULD REMAIN WITHOUT ASSURANCE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: A. EARLY MOVEMENT OF AT LEAST SOME LRP REFUGEES

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SUCH A DECISION WOULD BE REQUIRED BY SEPTEMBER 1 AT THE LATEST IN ORDER FOR US TO PREPARE SUCH LRP CASES FOR SEPTEMBER MOVEMENT. WE PRESENTLY HAVE ASSURANCES FOR 1173 LRP REFUGEES. THESE ASSURANCES HAD NOT BEEN COUNTED IN FORMULATING ABOVE PROJECTIONS; B. IMPRESS UPON THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES THE NEED TO INCREASE THE POOL OF ASSURED IPP LAND REFUGEES. WE EARLIER ESTIMATED IN REFTEL A NEED FOR AN AVERAGE OF 1600 ASSURANCES PER MONTH FOR ALL PROGRAMS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE SAME RATE OF MONTHLY DEPARTURES. ABRAMOWITZ

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